



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
Founded in 1931

WHISPERS FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME

ANAND CHOUDRI, KC2KPG - RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Big Bang Theory

As we look into the sky, day or night, we are looking back in time.

We see the faint glow of light that fills the universe.

We see back to the light left over from the Big Bang, the thermal radiation of creation.

Today we see that light / thermal radiation, that originated 13.7 billion years ago, red shifted to microwave frequencies.

This radiation is called the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB). It fills the entire sky in all directions.

Professional astronomers use expensive radio telescopes to measure the CMB and learn about the early universe. With some simplifications, though, it is possible for an amateur to construct a similar apparatus to detect the CMB.

Jack Gelfand, K2BMI will demonstrate his radio telescope and discuss the results.

Jack, Thank You for your description for this column.

Please join him on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 7:00 pm to see how knowledge of radio can be used in other hobbies too. We meet in the Boy Scouts building at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd, Brighton, NY 14623.

FEBRUARY 2017
VOLUME 69, ISSUE 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MONTHLY PROGRAM	1
PREZ SEZ	2
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
RARA REWARDS PROGRAM	4
RMSC TECHNOLOGY DAYS	5
RADIO ACTIVE	8
RADIO FOR THE GRANDKIDS	10
RAGS OF THE PAST	12
VE TEAM	13
RARA CALENDAR	14
NEWS AREA FROM CLUBS	15
FOR SALE	17
FOR FREE	17
HAMFESTS	17
AMATEUR'S CODE	18
WEBSITE INFORMATION	18
RARA MARKETPLACE	19
RARA OFFICERS	21
AREA CLUB CONTACTS	22



Where were you when the lights came on?

PREZ SEZ

FOREST SHICK, WA2MZG—RARA PRESIDENT

Resignation

At the January Board of Directors meeting, Will Mullaney submitted his resignation. Will is moving to Colorado to ski (at least that is the story he told us) and probably do a little work on the side. Will has been a member of the Board of Directors, then President and finally back to being a member of the Board this year. Please thank Will for his contributions to the club. We wish him well on his new adventure. Will has been very helpful in my transition to President of RARA.

Treasurer

At the December general meeting I announced that Ryan Tucker had resigned as Treasurer of RARA, but not as a Director. During the break in the meeting Brian O'Connor stepped forward and volunteered to accept the responsibilities of Treasurer. Brian was invited to the December board meeting to meet the board, discuss his qualifications and generally get to know what he might get into if he were selected to be Treasurer. I guess we did not scare him away as Brian stated that he would accept the Treasurer position if it was offered to him.

At the January board meeting we accepted Will's resignation. Then, as stated in Article III D of the RARA By-Laws, Brian was voted to be a new Director of RARA. According to Article V C, Brian was also voted to become our new Treasurer.

Please welcome Brian to the board and to the office of Treasurer. Brian's Bio follows.

Brian O'Connor - BIO

Brian O'Connor has been licensed as KA2CGB since 1978. His amateur radio interests include HF phone and data as well as VHF scatter modes. He is a volunteer at the Antique Wireless Association (AWA) museum in East Bloomfield.

Brian retired from Harris RF Communications after 30+ years where he helped customers implement radio systems with stations from QRP to 100 kW. He and his family lived in Europe for two years and in the Middle East for 10 years.

Brian has been the treasurer of Scouting units and his homeowners association. His overseas office management responsibilities included detailed accounting for a cash flow approaching one million dollars.

Empty-nesters, Brian and XYL Marion live in Perinton.

As long as we are on the subject of Bio's, I was contacted by the West Side Radio Club to have their information included in the News From Area Clubs section of the RAG. It is really great to see a new club developing in our area. Below is their BIO. Please offer them your support.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1ST - RARA General Meeting

7:00 PM at BSA Headquarters, 2320 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd

FEBRUARY 2ND - RARA Board of Directors

5:30 PM at BSA Headquarters, 2320 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd

FEBRUARY 18TH - RARA VE Testing

10:00 AM RIT Gleason Hall, Room 9-3139

FEBRUARY 18TH - RARA Winterfest

11:30 AM Stewart Lodge, Mendon Ponds Park

West Side Radio Club - BIO

The mission of the Westside Amateur Radio Club is to provide emergency communications services to the community, to assist other civic organizations, to promote the technical craft of amateur radio through class training and testing, to mentor new members, and enhance fellowship among radio amateurs.

Gift Certificates For RARA Reward Points

Tim Barrett discusses this new program later in this issue of the RAG. There are many hams with available points. Use them to begin a new project.

If you don't have any points - volunteer, become more active in our club. Last month we had a presentation on Public Service - a perfect path to volunteer and earn points. Those of you with interesting projects to share, write an article for the RAG or talk to Anand - maybe a presentation is in your future.

To be very clear - the points are NOT payment for participating - they are a simple method for the club to say Thank You.

REMEMBER: All memberships must be renewed in September. If your membership lapses, you lose all your accrued reward points. You cannot earn points for participating if you are not a RARA member.

New Hams and Elmers

At our last club meeting I asked 3 questions:

- Do we know why many new hams do not attend RARA meetings?
- After a new ham gets their first license, what is their biggest question?
- Who would be willing to participate as Elmers?

The group discussion around each question was very good – Thank You.

I'm not going to summarize the discussion but the outcome of the discussion has initiated some "Elmer" activity. Tim Brown and I discussed how to utilize and reinvigorate our Elmers and how to connect them with people who need mentoring. Our first approach is to new hams.

Doing some research, Tim came across a club in Arizona that I contacted to see how they are involving their Elmers. Their idea is simple and to the point. We are going to follow a similar path at the February meeting.

Our goal at the February meeting is to help new hams get on the air. To help answer their questions about what do I do now that I am a ham? Which radio? Which antenna? Etc.?

We will be matching new hams with questions with Elmers who want to help. During the meeting break, the new ham and the Elmer can exchange contact info and decide how to take the first step.

To make this idea work, we need new hams to attend our meetings (especially February) and Elmers to attend and volunteer to help the new hams.

By the way - we always need knowledgeable members to become Elmers. Do you have a specialty to share - Please contact Tim Brown to be included.

We can make this idea work if everyone participates.

New hams - please give this idea a chance and attend the February meeting - Thank You!

Winterfest

February 18th will be here soon. Mark your calendars, invite your wife or significant other, warn your children that they will be joining you for a wonderful afternoon with fellow hams and their families. Bring your portable station and operate or just enjoy conversations with family and friends.

No Reward Points are required to attend BUT you can win Reward Points. See the article on page 5 of the January RAG for more details.

Beware - Crock Pot Cook Off and desserts to share. If you cook it they will come!

EXCITING NEWS ABOUT THE RARA REWARDS PROGRAM

TIM BARRETT, K9VB—RARA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

At our meeting in January I set out a new program for use of membership awards points. We created the RARA Membership Awards Program about six years ago and many club members have made good use of this program putting earned points towards the cost of renewing membership or towards tickets for our annual banquet each year. We are now extending the program so that points can also be redeemed to buy gift vouchers from [the ARRL Store](#), [Ham Radio Outlet \(HRO\)](#) or [Universal Radio](#). So, you can now benefit from what you do for the club by getting stuff for your shack – click on the links to see what you can get!

Points are awarded for making presentations at our meetings, taking part in public service events and other club tasks. Points are also awarded for non-elected club offices listed later in this RAG. None of that changes. *Note: elected offices do not earn points.*

How does it work? Simple. We have previously redeemed points at a nominal rate of Two points = One Dollar and that will continue. We will make gift cards available in units of \$10 with each \$10 requiring 20 points.

So, you already have some points saved up? How do you get your gift cards? Easy. Go to [our website](#) to see how many points you have. You will need your access code. (If you have forgotten it, click the link and it will be emailed to you). Decide how many of your points you want to use. Remember these must be in units of 20 points: **20 points = \$10 voucher from ARRL, HRO or Universal.**

Email your selection to the membership secretary (Membership@RochesterHam.org) stating:

- Your name, call and home address
- How many points you want to use
- Gift cards required (ARRL, HRO or Universal)

We will validate your request, order the card(s) and mail them to you when they are ready. That's all there is to it! As this is a new program we will be monitoring it carefully and may make changes after we have some experience of it in operation.

If you already have plenty of points, give it a try - and thanks for all your efforts for the club – they are appreciated! If you don't have points and would like to do something for the club and earn some points in the process, take a look at the [Membership Awards page](#) and [the Public Service Event page](#) on our website or speak to one of the board members about things you can do!



Hams serving Hams
We speak your language... QSL?

- * **FREE** home relocation and property search services
- * **FREE** valuation and financing consultations

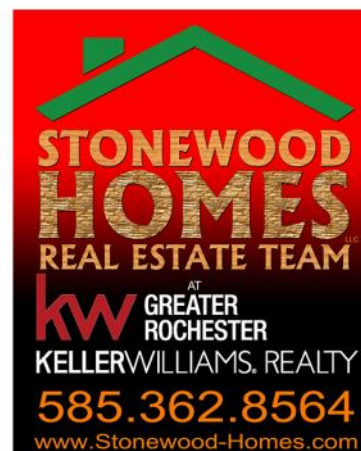
- Estate Liquidation - Downsizing - or just a change of scenery...

**Whatever your real estate needs are, call:
Frank (WB2PYD) or Lisa (K2BGR)**

Lisa Schramm (K2BGR)
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
LSchramm@KW.com
585.756.3185

Frank Schramm (WB2PYD)
Realtor
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
Certified Financing Specialist
FSchramm@KW.com
585.362.8564

Keller Williams Realty Greater Rochester
2000 Winton Rd South Building 1-201
Rochester, NY 14618



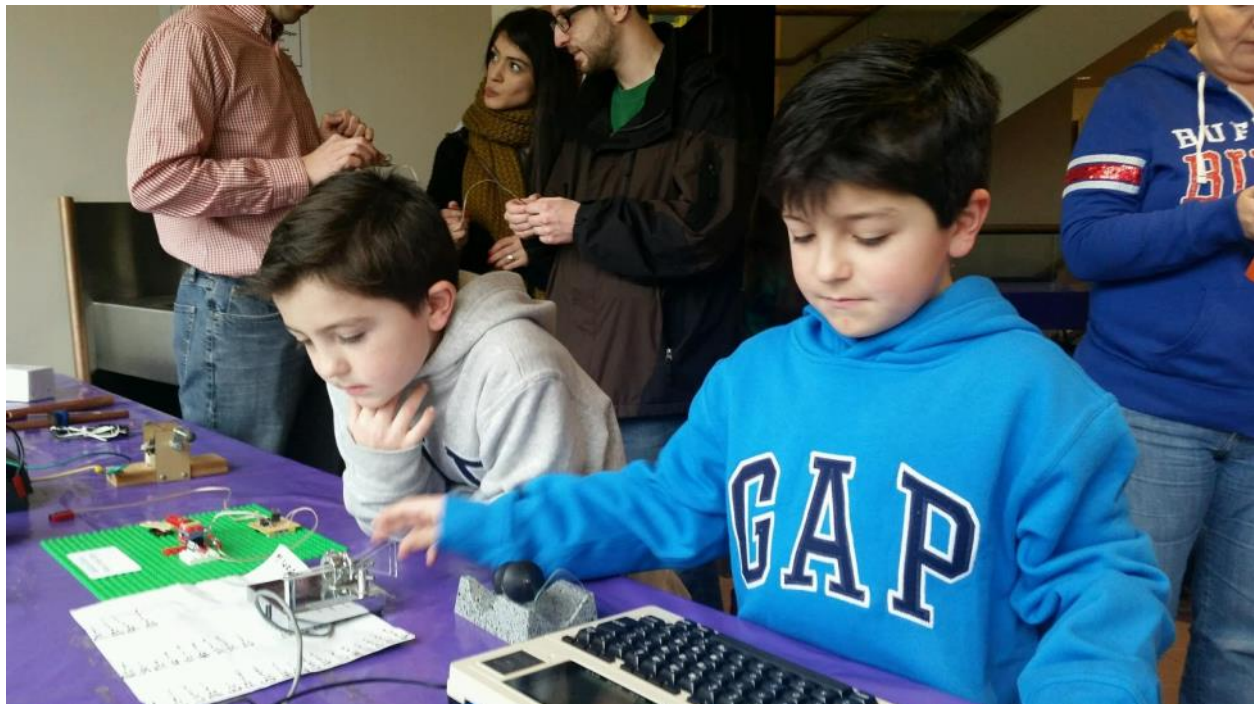
2016 RMSC HOLIDAY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DAYS

DOUG STEWART, N2BEG

As the holidays approached we once again found ourselves preparing for what has become a regular staple of the Rochester ham community calendar. This year, we were informed, marks our 20th consecutive year of participation in this very well received community program at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. RARA, RDXA, and XARC members joined forces once again to help introduce and promote amateur radio to the area youth (and their caregivers!) that came to see the museum during their holiday break and to take in the wealth of demonstrations from area groups that were 'hawking their wares' as it were.

Preparations got under way in late November as volunteers and materials were lined up and plans made to set up our station and demos in our usual spot on the main floor. On a windy Saturday in December, a group of intrepid, aging amateurs ventured onto the RMSC and once again raised the G5RV on the flagpole that would serve as our HF antenna for the 4 day operation. Jack, WA2CHV, Don K2DV, our museum guide and myself made short work of the antenna project and stashed the feedline for the main event 2 weeks later.

As the day was upon us, the set up proceeded as usual on the 26th and we were in business. The crowd on Monday was lighter than usual. The HF station had issues right out of the gate with a huge local noise source coupled with the worst band conditions of the current solar cycle. We isolated the S9+ noise source to the first floor area and helped kids with the demos. I think we made 6 HF contacts in between the interference and propagation woes. It was going to be a long 4 days.

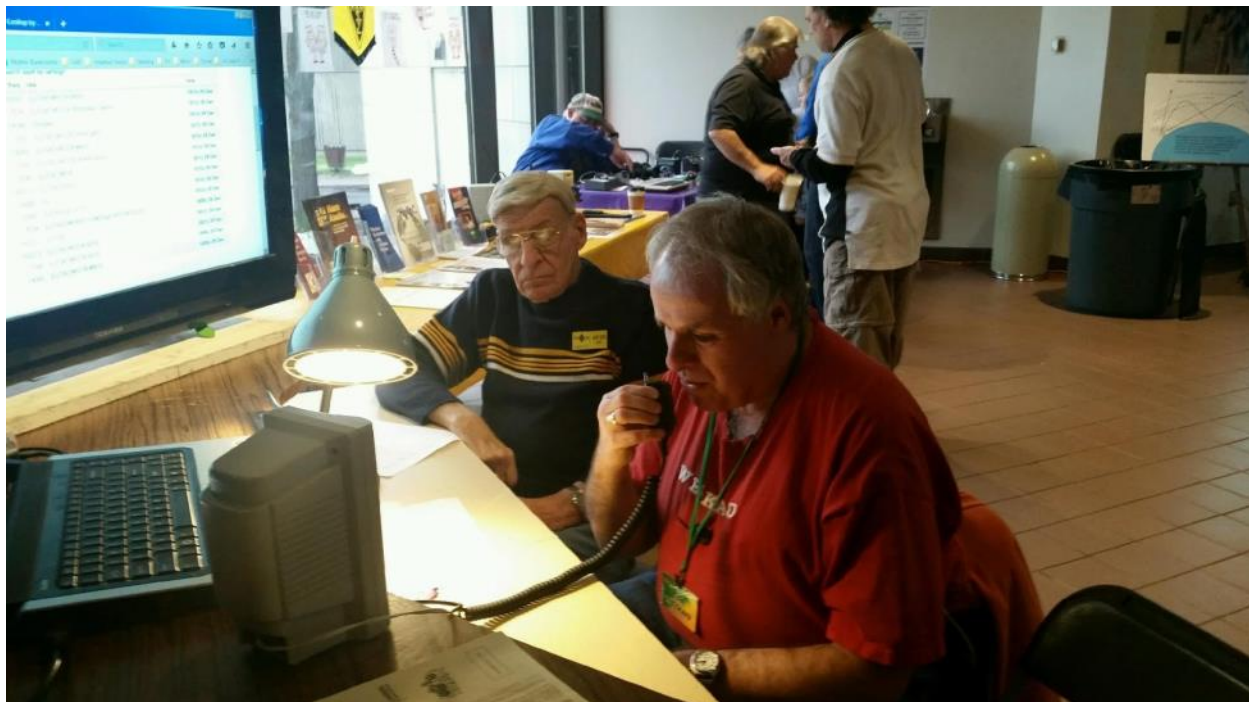


The traffic picked up some on Tuesday and Wednesday, the HF contacts did not. On Wednesday it was discovered that the cart provided by the museum that had the big TV was (one of) the noise sources. It was somehow mixing with WHAM and radiating that onto several HF bands (it wasn't the TV, but an HDMI/AV input switch box) We eliminated one issue



and made some more contacts but it was still a struggle. 20 meters was really the only band at that hour and few stations could be heard. Things picked up a little on Thursday but there was still an issue with the setup.

Despite the dismal HF effort, we did talk with many kids and parents and actually had several parties interested in finding out about getting licensed. As the operation wound down, we started to pack up and some of us ventured to the roof to retrieve the antenna and feedline. Once the antenna was lowered and examined, we discovered the other issue with not hearing anything.



With one side of the antenna open, we were loading up the ladderline and the other half with the XARC 746's internal tuner. The nonstop winds that blew at gale force for the two weeks the antenna was up probably did it in. Lesson learned. All and all we will still call the operation a success. Many thanks to the numerous RARA, XARC and RDXA club volunteers that came out to help with the demos, setup and take down. Plans are already being made for a new and better operation for next year. Hats off also to our gracious hosts at the RMSC.



RADIO ACTIVE

EV TUPIS, W2EV

What is the amateur radio equivalent of Twitter? Radio sports! Brief exchanges of information with a single station...then brief exchanges with another station...then...rinse and repeat. YOU set the pace. Take it slow at first. No worries.

Big power and big antennas are NOT needed. Having your butt-in-the-chair and mic-in-the-hand is, however.

Newbies prefer the “search-and-pounce” approach. They tune the band looking for people calling “CQ Contest” and answer them. The greenest of greenhorns don’t even log the contact themselves. They just tune the band making brief contacts.

Slightly more seasoned operators will find a clear frequency and call “CQ Contest”, becoming beacons to attract those who are employing the “search-and-pounce” strategy.

More seasoned operators will log the contacts and the most seasoned operators will log-and-submit those logs to the contest sponsors.

It doesn’t matter which strategy could fit you...just choose one and become radio active in February.

Technicians, especially

10 meters opens with fair regularity. Here is a [link](#) that shows the last 10 days of propagation, along with a table that shows the time-of-day that it opened.



Maybe the **10-10 International Winter Contest, SSB** is to your liking? **0001Z, Feb 4 to 2359Z, Feb 5.**

What to expect? Members of the 10-10 International club will send call sign, name, 10-10# and QTH (State, Province or Country). NON-members will log that, and reply with call sign, name and state (New York). Log 10, 10-10 members and you can submit for membership yourself! More information is available at: <http://www.ten-ten.org/>

Technicians, Generals, Advanced and Extras

State-based “QSO Parties” are a fun and no-pressure way to get radio active. QSO Parties are designed to put a state in the lime light and encourage each county in that state to activate and engage in short exchanges with out-of-state stations.

NOTE: Out-of-state stations (us) may contact only in-state stations (them). These are a GREAT way to have fun at your OWN pace!

The **Minnesota QSO Party** may be just the ticket for you to have some fun! **1400Z-2400Z, Feb 4**



What to expect? Stations in all of Minnesota’s counties will be sending their first name and their 3-letter county abbreviation. They will want your first name and states’ 2-letter abbreviation (“NY”). Look for SSB activity around the following frequencies: 1.870, 3.850, 7.250, 14.270, 21.350 and 28.450 MHz. 20 meters and 40 meters are likely the best bands from NY.

The **New Hampshire QSO Party** is **1600Z, Feb 11 to 2200Z, Feb 12.**



What to expect? Stations in New Hampshire will send a signal report and county. They will want to hear you reply with signal report and state. Look for SSB activity around the following frequencies: 1.875, 3.845, 7.235, 14.280, 21.380, 28.390 and 50.200 MHz. 80 meters, 40 meters and 6 meters are likely to be your best bands from NY.

The **South Carolina QSO Party** will happen **1500Z, Feb 25 to 0159Z, Feb 26**.



What to expect? As a non-South Carolina station, you will send signal report and state. South Carolina stations will send signal report and county. Look for SSB activity around the following frequencies: 1.865, 3,810, 7.190, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450, and 50.135 MHz.

Not to be outdone, the **North Carolina QSO Party** is **1500Z, Feb 26 to 0059Z, Feb 27**.



What to expect? North Carolina will be calling CQ and sending their county. The rest of us will send them our state. Too easy, huh? Look for SSB activity around the following frequencies: 3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360 and 50.160 (SSB) MHz.

The **ARRL School Club Roundup** is **1300Z, Feb 13 to 2359Z, Feb 17**. The objective is to exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college. Non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate.



What to expect? Everyone exchanges call sign, signal report and "class". As a non-school club operator, your class is "Single" or "Individual" (either is ok). Suggested SSB frequencies are 1.855, 3.850, 7.225, 14.250, 21.300 and 28.440 MHz and "up" from there. Schools from all across the country will be participating, so follow what you know about propagation to choose a best band to operate at any given time. More detail about this event is available at [this](#) link.

The **CQ Magazine, 160-Meter Contest, SSB** will occur **2200Z, Feb 24 to 2200Z, Feb 26**.



What to expect? W/VE stations will exchange signal report and state, while DX stations will send signal report and CQ Zone (a number). Amazing things can be worked on 160 meters near sunrise and sunset and throughout the night. Work locals during the day. More detail about this event is available [here](#).

Remember, times are UTC (Z). 1400 UTC = 0900 Eastern time.

By the way...participating in radio sports is an excellent way to prepare for emergency communications where conditions may be poor, there may be QRM and you have to get a short message through!

You're licensed. You're eager. Now, get out there and activate "radioly".

Silent Key

William E. Herzog
K2LB
January 3, 2017

Silent Key

Harold C. Smith
K2HC
December 8, 2016

Silent Key

Donald S. Walton
W2DSW
December 4, 2016

ANOTHER RADIO FOR THE GRANDKIDS

BILL HOPKINS, AA2YV

Another winter has come, and my on-the-wall To-Do list of radio things for family and myself keeps staring at me. I have just finished refurbishing a Hammerlund HQ-129X receiver (1949-50), a sweet, “big” boat anchor. All caps and resistors out – all new ones, “in.” It’s now a done deal, and it’s a keeper.

Next on the list is a table model cathedral radio I promised to grandkids some time ago. It is the Philco Type 84B, Baby Grand. (You can look it up on-line.) This past summer I took the cabinet to the garage and spiffed it up a bit – not restored, mind you – so that it can now sit proudly in a darker corner of the family’s living room. The radio has to work well enough for demoing to guests. That it will. (I will have to warn against heating up the power transformer. Otherwise, I might have to send along a Variac or a bucking transformer. However, such caveats on the floor may kill an otherwise interesting discussion item. I’m still pondering this decision.)

I obtained both radios from auctions at the Antique Wireless Association Museum in Bloomfield, NY (just down the road). Both were cheap and had promise.



I’ve spent a week on the electrical for this Philco. I’m lying; it was a wee bit more than that. I haven’t yet fired it up; am waiting for two 77 type tubes: the mixer/LO and the 2nd detector tube. (It uses a Type 80 for the PS and a Type 42 for the audio output.)



This radio sold for \$20 in 1934, around the time that Philco sold its millionth radio. (Who knows? Maybe this was that millionth!) The terms back then were \$2 down and \$1 per week. So far, I have spent nothing on repair. I found everything in my junk box and my new-old-stock of caps and resistors. I retained as much of the original wire as possible. (A decade-long pack-ratting career does pay off.)

I always “wash” my radios, at least those parts that can withstand it. I have found that “Super Clean” does wonders on dirty aluminum (wear gloves and old clothes please.) I suggest taking a radio down to its bare minimum, where possible, without busting rivets. Do what you can with a Drehmel tool brush where necessary, but don’t damage the surface. Then let it go at that. You have to decide the amount of abrasion you can live with. (1930’s aluminum is pretty

sturdy and can withstand the cleaning.)

This radio has a curious arrangement for capacitors in the signal path (.001, .015, .1 mfd, etc.) They were all wrapped caps, like electrolytics. Seven caps were inserted into four black housings and soldered off at the top through eyelet holes. The housings – open on the bottom – were filled with a tarry sealing substance that required removal. Some of these caps actually still measured capacitance. Of course, they were way off. The physically large resistors (mostly 1/2 watt for us) tested either way under or way over their stated values. The transformer, RF inductors, and trimmer cap continuities tested OK. This also includes the two speaker coils. Then we were ready to go with reassembly.



I usually tackle the power supply last on a radio like this. For this Philco, I left in the aluminum can that houses the 8 and 4 mfd. filter caps to retain the original look. I put the replacements on the bottom side. For this it needed an additional lug contact strip.

Someone had inserted a large add-on cap under the chassis, but the repair job was all wrong. This made me suspicious - also, the fact that there was no contact to ground (B-). What's the deal? Furthermore, the schematic did not indicate how to arrange the polarity of the filter caps. So I went on line and discovered that Philco made a floating canister for these caps. That is why the original is isolated from the chassis by a thick cardboard sleeve. (It's good to read the fine print, which just may be available on someone's website.) On line I found the answers to both my quandaries.

I am confident this radio will work, probably on the first smoke test. Why shouldn't it? The circuit is quite simple. Five trimmer caps determine the alignment. The variable tuning and oscillator caps have one each to set the dial. Two trimmers on the rear panel are for setting the intermediate frequency at 450 Kc and a third to set the regeneration circuit. Just go to the top of the AM band, obtain a squeal (regeneration) on a signal and then back it off. Then go to the bottom of the band and back off further, if the squeal is heard there. That's about it.

I said refurbished, not restored. To restore a radio is to get it ready for museum display, so that a visitor could swear it's right out of the box. I'll be sure to listen to WXXI's Evan Dawson at noontime and enjoy "All Things Considered" at 4 p.m. before I send it off to its new home.



RARA RAGS OF THE PAST

Ed Gable, K2MP – RARA Club Historian

20 YEARS AGO, FEBRUARY, 1997

What? Pixels replacing scan lines, only one TV Channel needed, Pinnacle Hill for sale! Tell me more. And more it was at the RaRa meeting twenty years ago when Tim Stoffel, NS9E, told a very interested audience about the future of TV... digital TV. Tim's biggest message was to not take this change lightly. You will be affected. Your TV will be obsolete. High Definition will be the next buzz word. More channels for less money. Well, three out of four isn't too bad. Dick Goslee, K2VCZ, wrote that the new RaRa Directory will be in the mail to you soon. In the days before QRZ.com the RaRa Directory was a most appreciated and anticipated membership benefit. Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU (N2PU), continued his articles on features for the upcoming three day 1997, Rochester Hamfest. Attendees will see and hear programs on new Ham Radio Web sites, a VHF forum, QSL card checking, an ARRL DXCC program and more. Speaking of WebPages, RaRa, too, is off and running to have a web presents with Peter Fournia, W2SKY, leading the effort. Dave Rubin, N2TJB, penned an article to inform RaRa members about an organization of Jewish Hams called the Chaverim Amateur Radio Club. Dave explained how the local group provides VHF communications for foot races and the like, including a 5k bagel run. Sounds like my kind of activity /Ed. With regret it was reported that Fred Retallick WA2BLF and Roert Huether KD2MC, were reported as Silent Keys. There were no Want Ads in this issue, however Mark Ornstein, WB2YYB, Roofing and Gutter Contracting, remained a long term advertiser.

40 YEARS AGO, FEBRUARY, 1977

Mr. K. Pacitur, aka W2MPM, wrote a confusing meeting introduction to say how the December meeting was changed to February but then had to be performed without notice in January so now the January meeting is being held in February where Mr. Tom Quinnan, from the FAA Rochester Field Office will finally speak on Instrument Landing Systems used at the Rochester International Airport. Good news was reported for the upcoming 1977, Rochester Hamfest where not only will there be free FCC administered License examinations but for the first time those passing their exams will get instant upgrades. And on the topic, Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, began Part 1 of a series of articles on the history of Rochester Hamfests. February 28th was announced as the start of the Spring Novice/General Code and Theory classes. Don't just show up, though, as the pre-registration is already full at some fifty persons per class. This issue also welcomed new hams from the Fall classes. A large list with some familiar names still active after forty years (with their new callsign): Wayne King N2WK, Chris Wachs WA2KDL, Lee Morelli WB2JOR, Bob Allen WB2JOM and many more. Ed Valmore, K2EVJ, then Chmn of the Rochester VHF Group, wrote to tell that Floyd Koontz, WA2WVL, will be speaking on UHF equipment for long range communication. A rare subject matter was covered by Don Partis, WA2AIV, who penned an article on traffic handling, and announced the start up of a slow speed Novice Traffic Training Net. You could also read that 40 years ago this month the FCC suspended all licensing fees and we have enjoyed free ham licenses ever since. From the Want Ads you could buy a National NCX-500 HF transceiver from Len Gessin, WA2ZNC. CFP Communications, selling Drake and Yeasu ham lines from Horseheads, NY, remaining a long term advertiser.



the RARA RAG
Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 49 February 1997 NO. 6

NS9E TO DISCUSS DIGITAL TELEVISION AT FEBRUARY 7th MEETING

Ahhh, the miracles of modern technology. You may be asking yourself, "what is digital television?" As a person who enjoys using TV imagery for the hobby as well as the usual form of entertainment, I had no idea of what is to come. We are all in for some surprises. Television as we know it is going to go through some radical and serious changes. Within the next couple of decades, the standard mode of commercial television is going to change. This means that your current type of television will become obsolete. Not only will your TV be out of date, but so will the commercial transmitters. Looks like a field day for hams who want to buy big TV transmitters!

I wonder if Pinnacle Hill will be for sale too. Tim Stoffel NS9E, will visit us at the February meeting and inform us as to what all these changes will be. Do not take this lightly, these changes will affect us all. Here is your chance to get first hand information as to what is in our future as far as any commercial television is concerned. In a day and age where computers are rapidly increasing in popularity, our TVs are going to become more like a computer terminal than a television set. Instead of "scan-lines" we will have pixels. Multiple programs

continued on page 2

RaRa MEETING

February 7, 1997
8:00 P.M.
Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road
Digital Television

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

Novice - Tech - Tech Plus
General - Advanced - Extra
or
Whatever Elements you need
to complete a license class.

Saturday February 15, 1997
Registration - 8:30AM
Testing - 9:00AM

Social Services Building
111 Westfall Rd., Rochester
Inquires (716) 334-4488

SILENT KEYS

Fred J. Retallick
WA2BLF
January 13, 1997

Robert F. Huether
KD2MC
December 29, 1996

VE TESTING

Join us on Saturday, February 15, 1997 at 111 Westfall Road for new license or to upgrade. Registration starts at 8:30AM. Exams start at 9:00AM.

The RARA RAG

Published by
The Rochester Amateur Radio Association
INCORPORATED

VOL. 29 FEBRUARY 1977 NO. 6

December Meeting to be held February 4th

by K. Pacitur, AKA, W2MPM

Remember the fine December talk on cable TV? Well that was to be the February meeting until the December speaker's schedule was changed. Therefore it becomes obvious to the most casual observer, that the December meeting should be scheduled now in January for the February meeting. Those of you who read the November prepared Rag article in the December issue will well remember the topic as being the Instrument Landing System at the Monroe County Airport.

Seriously now, we are very pleased to be able to reschedule Mr. Tom Quinnan from the local FAA Field Office to speak on this exciting and intricate system. This talk will be of special interest to the many private pilots in our midst who may use the system occasionally and will also give the rest of us, the commercial passengers, an insight on what is really going on as we descend for landing. Few people realize the efforts that have to go into keeping an ILS system in peak performance. Antenna patterns are surely not as casual as we tend to think with our ILS systems. Come and hear why.

Mr. Quinnan's presentation will be offered at the normal February RaRa meeting, Friday, February 4, 8 p.m., in the Farm and Home Center, 249 Highland Avenue.

Future RaRa events include the Dinner-Dance this month, see details elsewhere in this issue. Our popular Antique Wireless Association night is coming as well as the Hamfest and Picnic. Tentative meeting programs are penciled in but remember, if you have any programs or topics that you would be interested in, let me know. This is your group and "we aim to please."

Valentine Dinner-Dance Feb. 12 Last Call!

The annual RaRa Valentine dinner-dance will be held at the Americana Towne House on February 12. This is your chance to impress the XYL with a great night out thanks to amateur radio.

Things get underway with cocktails at 7 p.m. in the Towne Room followed by a dinner of Veal Cutlet Marinara, or Beef Burgundy complete with appetizer, salad and dessert. There will be flowers and other surprises for the ladies.

Following dinner we will be entertained by the Flower City Four, a musical barbershop comedy group. For those who wish, there will be music for dancing in the lounge of the Americana Towne House following our program.

Tickets will be available until and through February 4 club meeting at \$10 per person.

Instant Upgrading Coming in March

In a public notice released January 10, the FCC announced the implementation of an instant upgrading program. Effective March 1, Engineers in Charge of the various FCC field offices will be delegated authority to issue interim amateur permits to applicants for amateur operator licenses who successfully complete the examination and who already hold an amateur license. This interim permit will be good for 90 days or until the new license is issued, whichever comes sooner. The interim permit will indicate a special ID which must be appended to the amateur station call whenever the operator utilizes his newly earned privileges. We emphasize that this instant upgrading program does not take effect until March 1.

RaRa Razz-ma-tazz!

Who is the famous Rochester radio amateur who recently returned from a hospital stay? Why did he tell all the sobbing nurses "No use to cry?"

All winners get a deer's delight antenna and tower erected free complete to specifications of Town of Henrietta!

OK, a hint -- this famous Rochester ham has also been known as emperor of the emporium. Ans. SHUA "emperor" of the "emporium"

FCC EXAMS AT HAMFEST

The January RaRa Rag as item told of FCC exams at the Rochester Hamfest on Saturday, May 21. Please note that there is no fee required as was mentioned in that item. Complete details will be in your copy of the Hamfest brochure. The brochure will be in the mail around April 1.

Everyone taking tests at the Hamfest for upgrading will be eligible for instant upgrading because of a new program the FCC will start on March 1.

VE TEAM

The next **ALWAYS FREE** testing session:
February 18, 2017 (Third Saturday)
Rochester Institute of Technology
Kate Gleason College of Engineering
Gleason School of Engineering, Room 3139
Building 9
Use "J" parking lot
Registration at 9:45AM
Testing begins at 10:00AM
You do not have to preregister.

To avoid giving your SSN go to:

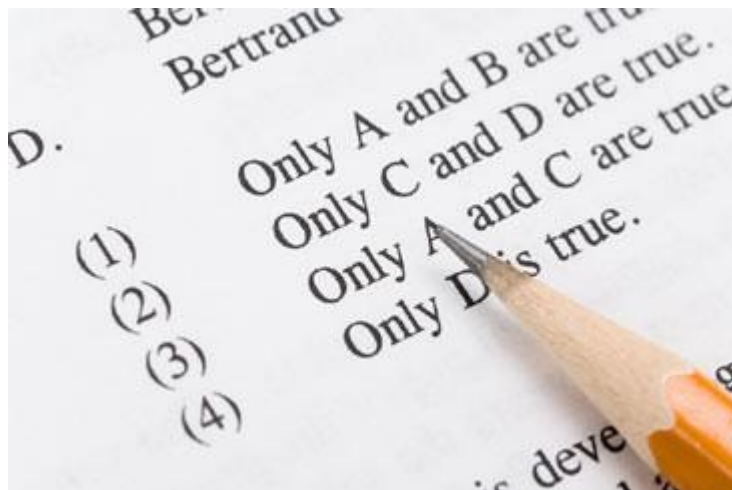
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

Register and bring the resultant FRN.

For more info:

<https://www.laurelvec.com/?team=RARA>

Don Kiser - AC2EV
RARA Board member
VE Team Leader
585-613-1035



Because the February RARA meeting occurs on the 1st, the RAG had to be distributed before the testing results were available.

See the March issue for all the results.

New licensees names are in **BOLD**

RARA CALENDAR

Tim Barrett, K9VB

February 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 RaRa Monthly Meeting 7:00pm, BSA HQ, 2320 Brighton Henrietta TL Rd	2 RaRa BoD Meeting 5:30pm, BSA HQ, 2320 Brighton Henrietta TL Rd QRP Fox Hunt NCCC Sprint	3	4 VT MN BC QSO Pty Triathlon DX Contest 10-10 10M Contest Black Sea Cap AGCW St Key Pty FISTS Slow Sprint
5 VT QSO Party 10-10 10M Contest Black Sea Cap	6	7 QRP Fox Hunt Phone Fray	8 SIARC 7.30pm	9 QRP Fox Hunt NCCC Sprint	10	11 CQ WPX RTTY Ctst SARL Field Day Asia Pac CW Sprint NL PACC Ctst KCJ Topband SKCC Sprint NH OMISS QSO Pty
12 CQ WPX RTTY Ctst SARL Field Day Asia Pac CW Sprint NL PACC Ctst KCJ Topband SKCC Sprint NH OMISS QSO Pty AWA AM QSO Pty	13	14 QRP Fox Hunt Phone Fray	15	16 QRP Fox Hunt NCCC Sprint	17	18 ARRL CW DX Ctst Russian PSK Ctst Feld Hell Sprint RaRa Winterfest Stewart Lodge Mendon Ponds Park
19 ARRL CW DX Ctst Russian PSK Ctst	20	21 RDXA 7.30pm QRP Fox Hunt Phone Fray	22	23 QRP Fox Hunt NCCC Sprint	24	25 CQ 160M SSB Ctst SC QSO Party NA RTTY QSO Pty
26 CQ 160M SSB Ctst SC QSO Pty NA RTTY QSO Pty SARL Digital Ctst NC QSO Party	27	28 QRP Fox Hunt Phone Fray				

Print this calendar and leave it by your radio.

SAVE THE DATES

Winterfest - Saturday February 18, 2017 - Mendon Ponds Park, Stewart Lodge

Picnic - Saturday July 8, 2017 - Mendon Ponds Park, West Lodge

Banquet - Friday September 22, 2017- Burgundy Basin Inn

NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES NEWS

The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend.

The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, February 23, 2017, at 7:00 PM.**

Meetings are held at the **Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.** (Located behind the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 Main St. E.)



ARES NET:

Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 8:00 pm, on the 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

WEB: www.monroecountiemcomm.org

Severe Weather Alerts:

Winter brings severe weather in the form of heavy snow and strong winds. If you experience severe weather, especially when accompanied by damage to property in your area, listen to your local ARES/RACES repeaters for information. While official ARES/RACES activation could be a possibility, it is more important that we open a spontaneous net simply to share information about weather conditions in your immediate area. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Pick up the microphone and start a net. Have each check-in station give you a situational awareness report and emergency power report. If you don't have a copy of the directed net protocol, you can find one at the WEB address listed above. (Activities/ARES Net/ Net Script/ Downloads)

NBEMS:

Want to learn about Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS)? It's the latest and easiest way to "Go Digital!" Bring your laptop computer and 2-M handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2017.

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION, RRRRA

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association, RRRRA invites you to attend its February 17, 2017 meeting. Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month in the Pittsford Town Hall Basement starting at 7:30 PM.

The program will be on digital radio. Our very own Bob Smith, NS2B will be describing the different digital modes now being used in Amateur radio. Bob has a couple of these radios to show and some digital mode evaluation boards. Hope you can make it.

The RRRRA officers for 2016 - 2017 are Bob Odell, N2BZX-President, Bob Shewell, N2HJD-Vice President, ED Wilkonski, KC2WM-Secretary, and Bob Smith, NS2B-Treasurer / Membership Chairman.

RRRA also accepts donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRRA, you can join at our monthly meeting or on our web site www.k2rra.org

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

The Rochester VHF Group holds monthly meetings on the second Friday of the month between September and June. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and are held at the Spencerport Wesleyan Church, 2653 Nichols St. (NY Route 31) in Spencerport. Visit our website www.rvhfg.org for details.

The Rochester VHF Group sponsors an informal On-Air Net every Monday at 2100 local time on 144.260 MHz USB and a 6 Meter Net every Thursday at 2100 local on 50.200 MHz USB.

More club information can be found by visiting www.rvhfg.org or just calling in any Monday or Thursday night. All are welcome to check in to these nets.

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

See website for details.



XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club will be having their next meeting at 6PM on Thursday February 9, 2016, at the Webster Recreation Center. All are welcome. Details can be found at our website, <http://xarc.us>

SQUAW ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC) meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begin at 6:30PM. The next meeting will be February 8th. There will not be License Exam Testing this month. 73's Steve Benton VP SIARC WB2VMR

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER

ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Town & Country Fire house in Horseheads. C-CARES meets the first Tuesday of the month except February. C-CARES covers the entire area in Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties and everyone is welcome.

ARAST is still planning to meet at the firehouse on the third Thursday.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for next year's hamfest September 30, 2017 located at the Chemung County Fairgrounds in Horseheads, NY.

Our website is undergoing construction. However I understand that until the re-write is complete, it will still be usable. So go ahead and check out our website at www.arast.org.

COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

If you are interested in being a part of this forward thinking and active club, visit us at a meeting or join us on one of our weekly nets. We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7pm. Each meeting has a brief training/refreshers period with upcoming topics including: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signaling. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9pm (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30pm on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in! Take a look at the club website for more info: www.k2srv.org

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP members continue to experiment with leading edge digital communications modes. We were formed in 1994 to foster the development of local and regional packet radio networks using AX25 and TCP/IP. Today we have members using the club sponsored DSTAR repeater (KB2VZS on 444.8MHz), several personal and public [DSTAR hotspots](#) (using the dvprtr board), Yaesu fusion systems on non-club repeaters and DMR. The last mode is being enjoyed locally through a [DV-Mega-Raspberry PI](#) combination. DCAP meets for breakfast at 7am nearly every Saturday morning at [Rikki's Family Restaurant](#) in Fairport and everyone is welcome to join us. Talk in is on the KB2VZS analog repeater on 146.715MHz with a PL of 110.9 Hz.

WESTSIDE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

We hold meetings at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month. The February 2017 meeting will be held at Cox Hall on the Roberts Wesleyan College campus. We will be joined by Dr. Ed Fong WB6IQN (formerly of UC Berkeley and now at UC Santa Cruz-Silicon Valley). He will be attending via Skype and will offer a presentation on antenna theory. He currently holds several antenna patents and has been featured in both QST and the ARRL handbook.

2017 Officers: President - Andrew Magin - KD2AWT, Vice President - Justin Grigg - KC2EQU, Secretary - Julia Thayer - KC1DHE, Treasurer - David Cross - KD2IHK

Website: <http://WestsideAmateurRadio.club>

INTERLOCK ROCHESTER - K2HAX - ROCHESTER'S HACKERSPACE

Interlock Rochester is open every Tuesday night at 7pm. We're in the Hungerford Building (1115 East Main Street, Rochester NY), just north of Village Gate. Come to Door #7 (next to Comics Etc) and buzz Suite 200. Want to know more? Visit our website at <http://www.interlockroc.org/>, contact us at info@interlockroc.org, or find us in [#interlock](#) on Freenode IRC.

Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Association

Email n3dsp@lafireline.net for details.

FOR SALE



iCOM IC-T7H owned by Stewart Coon, KA2OMS
\$125 or best offer.
Please contact:
Jim Coon
(585) 265-3027

FOR FREE

I have a few, new, USB mini cables free to whoever would like them.

Also

I have a few 12VDC, 0.4A wall mount power supplies free to whoever would like them.

I will have them at the February meeting - see me before the meeting or during the break.

Thank You - Forest

Hamfests

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club
Saturday February 4, 2017

http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php?event_ID=1795

Big Flats Hamfest
Saturday February 25, 2017

<http://www.ka2lim.com/7.html>

Drumlins Hamfest
Saturday April 22, 2017

Antique Wireless Association Spring Meet
Saturday May 6, 2017

RAGS Hamfest
Sunday July 9, 2017

Ithaca Hamfest
Saturday August 5, 2017
<http://tcara-ny.org/hamfest/>

Barnard Fire Dept. Hamfest
Saturday August 19, 2017

Elmira Hamfest
Saturday September 30, 2017



NOTE: Hamfest information is acquired from various sources. If I am unable to locate 2017 hamfest information on your website, then there will be no link on this page. When a link is available please send it to

editor@rochesterham.org

Thank You

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

VISIT THE RARA WEBSITE!

Did you know that your club's website (www.rochesterham.org) offers these features and more?

- Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- Rochester Hamfest information!
- Online membership & renewal
- Track and redeem your Reward Points
- Public service info & sign-up
- VE testing info
- Back issues of the RAG in PDF
- Officer contact
- List of past presidents
- Online membership directory
- Order RARA logo products
- Useful Internet links
- Ham Radio 101 – tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings



RARA MARKETPLACE

Your commercial ad could be here! The RARA RAG can help spread the word on your business at very reasonable rates.

Contact us for details at editor@rochesterham.org.



PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS WITH RAG ADVERTISING

Ad size and cost:

Business Card	- 2 x 3.5	\$140
Quarter Page	- 4.2 x 3.5	\$300
	- 2 x 7.3	\$300
Half Page	- 4.2 x 7.3	\$600
	- 8.6 x 3.5	\$600

The above prices are **per year** - not per month as is typical in other publications.

Your advertisement will be seen by amateurs in Rochester, Monroe County, New York State, the United States and even the rest of the world. RAG circulation is approx. 8,000.

**Display Your Business
Here For Only
\$140 Per Year**

RARA MARKETPLACE

D-C Roll-Off

483 MT READ BLVD
ROCHESTER, NY 14606



**Display Your Business
Here For Only
\$300 Per Year**

**Pass it forward
by donating your radio
or accessory to RARA.**



We will make sure it finds a good home.

You will get a tax-deductible receipt
and the satisfaction that comes with
doing good for others.

Call 585-210-8910 or email
Secretary@RochesterHam.org.

RARA is an IRS 501.c.3 non-profit

Consult with your tax advisor.



Get your message through!

Advertise in the RaRa RAG -
Read by over 8,000 radio enthusiasts each month.

For more information: Editor@RochesterHam.org

RARA OFFICERS

OFFICERS

President: Forest Shick, WA2MZG	(585) 721-1653	wa2mzg@arrl.net
Vice-President: Anand Choudri, KC2KPG	(585) 377-0759	kc2kpg@arrl.net
Treasurer: Brian O'Connor, KA2CGB	(585) 721-2346	ka2cgb@arrl.net
Secretary: Tim Guyot, KB1POP	(585) 406-3163	timguyot@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Barrett, K9VB	(585) 582-2108	tim.k9vb@gmail.com
Don Kiser, AC2EV	(585) 613-1035	dkiser100@gmail.com
Mark Pedersen, KC2UES	(585) 613-4052	mpeder21@gmail.com
Frank Schramm, WB2PYD	(585) 270-1045	wb2pyd@gmail.com
Natalie Tascione, KD2DYV	(585) 698-5102	kd2dyv@rochester.rr.com
Betsy Tascione, KD2DYU	(585) 458-6546	kd2dyu@rochester.rr.com
Ryan Tucker, W2XH	(585) 857-2181	w2xh@ryantucker.us

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Raffle Administrators	Jay Hamill, KC2TCM Sabrina Hamill, WD2STK	
Club Historian	Ed Gable, K2MP	
Club Station Trustee	Jim DiTucci, N2IXD	n2ixd@arrl.net
Education Coordinator	Frank Schramm, WB2PYD	wb2pyd@gmail.com
Hamfest Co-Producers	Tim Barrett, K9VB Anand Choudri, KC2KPG Tim Guyot, KB1POP	tim.k9vb@gmail.com kc2kpg@arrl.net timguyot@gmail.com
License Testing Coordinator	Don Kiser, AC2EV	dkiser100@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Tim Barrett, K9VB	tim.k9vb@gmail.com
Media Communications	Tim Guyot, KB1POP	timguyot@gmail.com
Public Service Coordinator	Jim Stefano, W2COP	w2cop@arrl.net
RARA RAG Editor	Forest Shick, WA2MZG	editor@rochesterham.org
Refreshments Coordinator	Dawn Lepard, KC2VJU	dawn@lepard.ca
Webmaster	Frank Schramm, WB2PYD	wb2pyd@gmail.com

MARCH RAG DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 15, 2017



**RARA meets at 7PM on the
first **Wednesday** of each
month; come join us at:**

Seneca Waterways Council, BSA Headquarters
2320 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd
Rochester, New York 14623

Get Directions

Rochester Area Repeater Listing

THE RARA RAG

Published by

Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY, 14692-8333
Hotline – (585) 210- 8910
Website – <http://www.rochesterham.org>

ROCHESTER AREA RADIO

CLUB CONTACTS

Antique Wireless Association (AWA)
Lynn Bisha, W2BSN: lbisha@rochester.rr.com

Community Amateur Radio Club (CARC)
Joe Gangi, AC2NB: ac2nb.carc@gmail.com

Digital Communications Association of Perinton (DCAP)
Gary Skuse, KA1NJL: ka1njl@arri.net

Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)
Alan Cook, K2MPE: alancook948@gmail.com

Fisherman's Net Amateur Radio Club
Jim Sutton, N2OPS: jim@otrym.org

Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn.
Bill Boyd, N3DSP: N3DSP@lafireline.net

Monroe County ARES
Jim DiTucci, N2IXD: n2ixd@arri.net

Orleans County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC)
Terry Cook, K2EYS: k2eys@ocarc.us

Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)
Forest Shick, WA2MZG wa2mzg@arri.net

Rochester DX Association (RDXA)
Chris Shalvoy, K2CS: cshalvoy@att.net

Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)
Bob Shewell, N2HJD: bshewell@frontiernet.net

Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)
John Stevens, WB2BYP: wb2byp@arri.net

Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)
Steve Benton, WB2VMR: sbenton2@rochester.rr.com

Westside Amateur Radio Club
Justin Grigg, KC2EQU:
communications@westsideamateurradio.club

XXR Amateur Radio Club
Brian Donovan, K2AS: k2as@outlook.com